The Musket

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1969

Much Review About...
Student thespians bring Shakespeare to Lexington High School in the fall production of "Much Ado About Nothing."
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The Challenges of Track
Indoor track athletes battle winter weather outside, crowded conditions inside, obstacles to team unity and more.
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Volume LV Issue III — January 2014

Debaters compete at 'bid' tournaments, qualify for Tournament of Champions

Prasuna Cheruku
Anar Kansara
Staff Writers

Zaki Atia, Katherine Fraser, Arjun Krishnan and Kevin Xie, all seniors, as well as Preetham Chippada and Jungwan Kim, both juniors, represented Lexington High School at the St. Mark's and Greenhill debate tournaments in this September and October of this year.

LHS debaters competed against other students all over the nation at the Greenhill tournament that took place in Addison, Texas on Sept. 21-23, 2013.

Chippada accomplished his longtime goal of receiving a bid by getting to the elimination rounds and becoming one of the top 16 Lincoln-Douglas debaters at that tournament. Arguing on both sides of the issue of whether voting should be compulsory in a democracy, he received one of two bids needed to qualify for the Tournament of Champions, a prestigious high school debate tournament in which only the most successful high school debaters in the country can compete.

Chippada, who has been part of the debate team for three years said, "Getting a bid for nationals was my goal for a long time — since sophomore year. I guess my next goal would be to get to Nationals."

The debaters also were successful at the St. Mark's tournament in Dallas, Texas, on Oct. 18-20, with Krishnan and Fraser placing second in the varsity policy division.

At the tournament, there were six preliminary rounds in which the team won the five rounds and lost the sixth. Every preliminary round, one judge assessed each individual on a scale of 30 points based on the speaker's ability. Krishnan and Fraser placed as one of the top 15 teams, achieved the most speaker points, and received the speaker award.

Krishnan and Fraser had the third seeding out of the top 30 teams. They were able to skip the double octafinals during the elimination rounds because of their seeding and proceeded to the presets, which also consisted of six rounds. Both debaters practiced both sides of the debate over whether the "US government should substantially increase its economic engagement towards Cuba, Mexico, and/or Venezuela."

The team won against debaters from several different schools, including Westminster, Greenhill School and Pace Academy.

[DEBATE, page 7]

Naviance pilot efficient for teachers, less useful for seniors

Valerie Hsieh
Kristin Tissera
Staff Writers

The world is becoming increasingly digital, and college applications are no exception to the rapidly revolutionizing world.

This year, a pilot program enabling teachers to submit recommendations online was made available through Naviance, saving them from printing, sealing and mailing hundreds of letters by hand to colleges across the country.

Many of the teachers who opted to try out this new program said they appreciate its efficiency and organization.

"Part of me feels like it eases some of the stress," said Robin Strizhak, an English teacher. "I don't have to worry about [the letter of recommendation] getting lost in the mail if it's there permanently."

Upon finishing recommendation submissions for students applying early decision, some teachers are becoming accustomed to the program.

"After having done it once, it would be hard for me to go back, mainly for the organizational purposes, because it has all of the deadlines on it, and I really like being able to look at all of [the deadlines] at once," said Shane Wilson, a history teacher.

While few teachers would switch back to completing the process by hand, some still admit the new process has its flaws, especially due to the lack of consistency in the submissions process among all colleges in the country.

"It would be glorious if all schools accepted electronic submissions, but I know we're not there yet ... I'm not trying to say it's a perfect system, but I haven't had any problems with [Naviance] yet, [and] it's only October 31, so I guess we'll see," said Strizhak.

Teachers use the program solely for submitting online teacher recommendations and Common Application forms, but students may also make use of its college planning and career assessment tools to supplement the college applications process.

In contrast to the largely positive feedback from the teachers who have used the program, students have mixed feelings about Naviance.

[NAVIANCE, page 7]

Debate Dictionary

» **Resolution**: the topic that debaters research about, a statement that is argued for or against

» **Case**: consolidation of arguments for one side

» **Aff/Neg**: debaters take the "affirmative" or "negative" position; they affirm (agree with) or negate (disagree with) the resolution

» **Cards**: formatted arguments taken from articles; "cutting cards" is used to describe

» **Policy/Lincoln-Douglas (LD)/Public Forum (PF)**: the three types of debate taught at LHS; policy debate focuses on policy actions taken by the U.S. federal government; LD focuses on questions of morality; PF focuses on domestic and foreign policies

» **Speeches**: each side has a set number of speeches (either constructive or rebuttal)

Tourney Talk

» **Elims vs. prelims**: preliminary rounds are a preset number of individual rounds that everyone debates; only certain debaters will advance to elimination rounds

» **Record**: number of preliminary rounds won

» **Seed**: ranking determined by preliminary rounds

» **Speaker points**: each round, debaters receive "speaks," a measure from 0-30 (more like 25-30) that reflects how proficiently they speak

» **Breaking**: making it past preliminary rounds; i.e. a tournament that "breaks to octos" takes the top 16 seeds in the division

» **Schematics ("schems")**: each round, the list of debaters, judges and room numbers released

THE TOC

» **TOC (Tournament of Champions)**: the most prestigious national tournament that occurs yearly in Lexington, KY.; students with two bids are qualified ("qualled") for the TOC

» **Bid**: if a student reaches a certain elimination round (i.e. finals) at a pre-approved tournament, he/she receives a bid for the TOC

» **At-large**: if a student receives one bid, he/she may apply for an at-large, which allows them to debate at the TOC and is granted if the debater has good records from other tournaments

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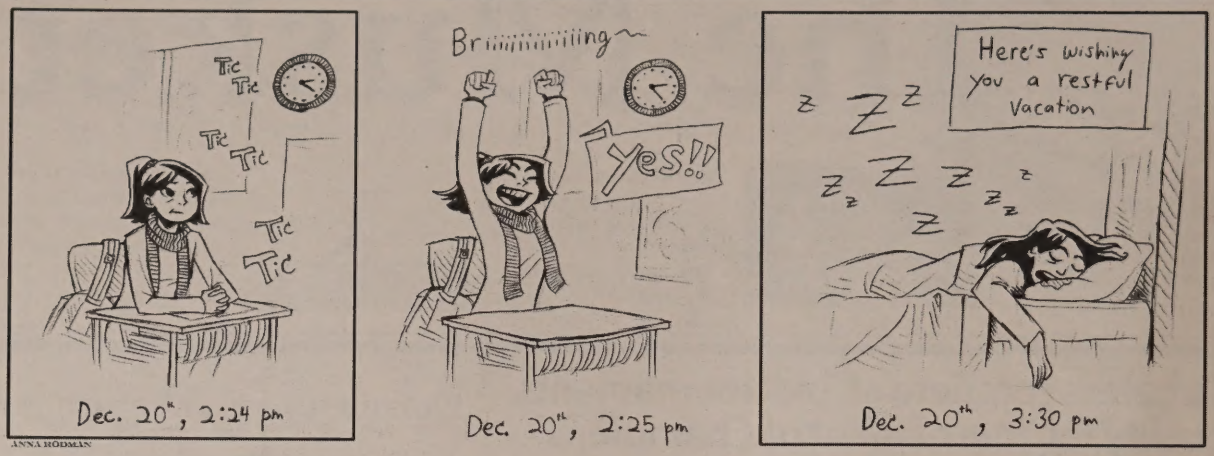

Comic by Anna Rodman

Editorial

Journalism convention highlights student freedoms in Lexington

This past November, the Musket staff attended the National High School Journalism Convention in Boston. High school journalists and educators came from around the country to take part in the various sessions and presentations and meet several well-known figures from the journalism world.

One of the most prominent and popular speakers was free speech activist Mary Beth Tinker, who embarked on and ultimately won the Supreme Court case, Tinker v. Des Moines. This landmark case resulted in the ruling that students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."

Tinker's speech at the convention stressed the value of student freedom, encouraging high school journalists to strive to have their voices heard. It ended with deafening applause. Afterwards, a conglomeration of students remained to talk to Tinker. One student discussed how her school wouldn't let the student-run newspaper publish an article about a transgender student, while another talked about the difficulties of dealing with a pre-reading from a principle. After the convention, we discussed these issues as a staff and realized how fortunate we are to attend Lexington High School.

[EDITORIAL, page 7]

Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of the editorial board.

Extended homerooms fail to effectively engage

■ Richard Huang
Staff Writer

It's a Tuesday morning, and you're just about to wake up after your first class of the day when you wonder why the block is shortened by five minutes. Then it occurs to you: It's extended homeroom day.

Occurring periodically throughout the year, extended homerooms lengthen the usual ten-minute block to 25 minutes and allow time for activities ranging from stress-relief exercises to "engaging group simulations."

According to the LHS Social and Civic Expectations, they are meant to teach LHS students to "make appropriate and healthy choices ... act with integrity ... participate in meaningful community service activities ... [and] act as responsible citizens."

Though extended homerooms are well-intended, they are rarely useful to LHS students.

Yeahan Kim, a senior, said that while "it's a good time to relax with your homeroom buddies," extended homerooms are not otherwise beneficial.

On paper, extended homerooms seem helpful because they communicate the school's social and civic expectations to students. However, there are often structural issues that prevent these extended homerooms from efficiently achieving their goal.

Take, for example, the first extended homeroom of the year, which focused on community service. Lalita Devadas, a sophomore, said that "even the students who were ... talking about [volunteer hours] seemed to think that it was a joke, and the atmosphere was not one conducive to ... taking away information."

While this information may have been imperative for underclassmen, upperclassmen have already been schooled on the significance of community service and don't need to have that information regurgitated back to them again.

Moreover, the information presented is often repetitive and intuitive. Students frequently do not take the activities in extended homeroom seriously. The second extended homeroom, which took place on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving break, focused on respect towards others. The accompanying simulation involved students writing down compliments on pieces of paper and taking turns reading them out loud. As a result of the redundant information they constantly receive about respecting others, many students put little time and effort into the activity, writing down careless responses.

While some students look

[HOMEROOMS, page 7]

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2013–2014

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New school sign designed to foster unity, pride within student population

Alana Kepler
Annie Ma
Staff Writers

On Nov. 4, Lexington High School's Worthen Road sign displayed its first message: "Thank you LEF." Its construction began on Oct. 24 and the sign was installed over the Nov. 2-3 weekend. Principal Laura Lasa said that the sign is meant to "create a sense of community among LHS students."

Although Lasa began planning the installment in the middle of last year, complications postponed construction for four months. The process entailed getting a grant from the Lexington Education Foundation, deciding where the sign would be, having it approved by the Zoning Board and contacting JM Stewart Signs to start construction.

The sign depicts a blue minuteman along with the words "Lexington High School" in white. After the sign's initial message, thanking the LEF, it has been used to announce events such as "Grades Open on Aspen" and "School Play Friday."

Staff photo by Alice Li

The Lexington High School's new sign was set up to display new events and announcements.

Even though the sign recently went up, many students haven't noticed the change. Others, like junior Amy Zheng, expressed concern that the sign is too small for the school's large campus. Zheng said, "It looks really poor, like run-down."

Lasa said that many of the people who requested the sign are parents of LHS students. They had expressed that without such a sign, most people would not recognize the building as the school and that, when given directions, many would refer to the field house.

The process involved several design challenges, and some went unresolved. The minuteman on the sign wears a hat, making it the mascot of Concord, not Lexington.

Moreover, although the sign's structure allows for it to be illuminated from within, to use this function, the whole parking lot would have to be dug up for an underground electrical system.

Despite these setbacks, Lasa said she is determined to use the sign to make a difference at LHS. "The sign is part of the school's vision to improve communication and to embed school pride and a sense of community," she said.

Librarians renovate to increase space

Sarah Zhang
Staff Writer

Recently, librarians renovated the library, unscrewing some shelves and taking away others.

The tall shelves have been replaced with lower bookcases and the bookshelves are placed at the peripheries of the room. More tables and chairs have been positioned in the newly created space. This was done to create the illusion of more space, as one can now see the ends of the library.

The renovation project began in early November for two main reasons. Librarian Katherine Thompson said, "[We] were trying to make more use of the wall shelving so students would have more room for seating. Ms. Wallen decided she wanted to change the way the library looked. Ms. Belham and I were like, 'Yeah, we're all for it!' We also used lower shelves so that the library is a more inviting place."

But the librarians have goals beyond rearranging the shelves and bookcases.

"The long-term plan is to get a larger circular reference desk and real magazine racks. We also want to get more computers in for the students," Thompson said.

However, Thompson said that the more pressing need is to replace the floor tiles, which have been broken by the heavy shelves that once stood on them.

"It's been heavy work because we have to pull all the books out, and then the shelves. If we didn't pull out the books, the shelves would weigh about 200 pounds," Thompson said.

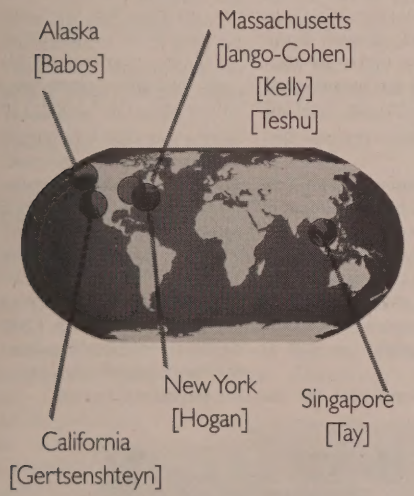
The librarians have also spent time straightening and rearranging books that they have pulled from the shelves.

"We've been going through, seeing if the books are still relevant," said Thompson. "Some of the older data books may be out of date and we want to make sure everything is up-to-date for the freshman and juniors working on their research projects."

These changes have created some confusion, but students have generally responded positively.

"I think the hardest part about the new setup is that students will have to relearn where everything is. I still get confused sometimes," Thompson said. "But overall, I think the library looks great. We had fun and it's nice to hear that many students like the set-up."

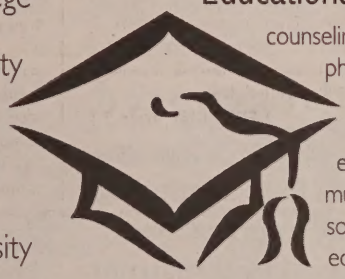
Where are you from?



Schools Represented

Simmons College
Lesley University
UMass Boston
Boston University

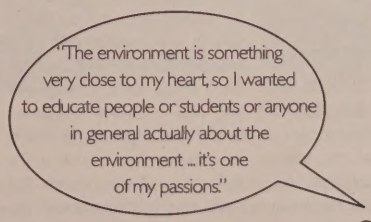
Educational Experiences



counseling (Ed.M.)
physics (major)
history (major)
psychology (major)
earth science (masters)
music education (major)
sociology (major)
education (major)

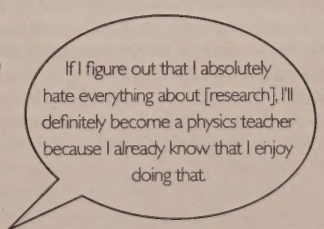
Student-teachers at LHS

Student-teacher	Department	Teacher
Jennifer Babos	ALPHA program	Hallie LeBlanc
Inna Gertsenshteyn	science (physics)	Ryan Grams
Jane Hogan	social studies	Julie Kuo
Jennifer Jango-Cohen	counseling	Matthew Medungo
Kara Kelly	counseling	Christine Maloney
Carolyn Tay	science (earth science)	David Wininger
Noah Teshu	music	Justin Aramati


"The environment is something very close to my heart, so I wanted to educate people or students or anyone in general actually about the environment ... it's one of my passions."

Carolyn Tay

"Quote Unquote"


If I figure out that I absolutely hate everything about [research], I'll definitely become a physics teacher because I already know that I enjoy doing that.

Inna Gertsenshteyn

Staff photo by Claudia Sun

Don Pedro (right), an important nobleman portrayed by Evan Simkowitz, a junior, convenes with Claudio (left), portrayed by Ethan Embry, a junior, and Benedick (center) portrayed by Mathew Benson, a sophomore.

'Much Ado' integrates modern themes into comedy

■ Mandy Quan
Andrew Sterne
Staff Writers

Anticipation fell upon the audience as the lights dimmed for the much-awaited performance of Lexington High School's fall play, "Much Ado About Nothing" by William Shakespeare.

Student actors, technical crew members and costume designers worked together under the guidance of their director, Jillian Singer, to perform the play on Nov. 21, 22 and 23.

The Shakespearean comedy was both entertaining and engaging from start to finish. The plot focused on the love entanglements of two couples.

The first involved Claudio and Hero, played by juniors Ethan Embry and Serena Lehman, respectively. The couple's relationship suffered as a result of continuous trickery and misunderstandings orchestrated by the villain Don John, played by senior Wesley Han.

The second relationship was a humorous love-hate exchange between Benedict and Beatrice, played by sophomore Mathew Benson and senior Fiona Gorry-Hines, respectively.

Viewers could not help but feel capricious as their opinion toward each character oscillated drastically throughout the play.

Although this adaptation of the play was set in Italy in the 1890's, Singer said that the issues brought up in the story are still relevant today.

To combine elements of both time periods, mixes of traditional and contemporary music were incorporated in the transitions between scenes.

"The contrast of the music with the setting was really unique," said Bonnie Nguyen, a sophomore and audience member.

Students were also impressed by the actors' abilities to reproduce the obscure Shakespearean language in a way that made sense and appealed to a wider audience.

[FALL PLAY, page 7]

collegebored

Advice for completing college applications: pace and procrastinate

■ Alison Cameron
Columnist

A week ago, I realized I had missed the deadline for sending off my transcripts. I scrambled around the house to find 12 crumpled dollar bills to give to the woman at the registrar the next day, hoping she would accept them and send off my transcripts for the two December 1 deadlines that I had. I drove home as quickly as I could to check my calendar for any other potential dates I might have missed.

Thankfully, I hadn't missed any other deadlines in the past few weeks and I still had plenty of time to hand in other transcript requests. However, I realized that I had barely been paying attention to my deadlines at all. I scarcely looked at the calendar I made back in September, and I always neglected to work on supplement essays over the weekend. I was in the full swing of schoolwork, but I just couldn't get myself motivated to do all of my work and be on top of things. Everything seemed hastily finished and sub-par.

Unsatisfied with my work but not sure how to change it, I felt myself stuck in a spiral of deadlines, with a heightening tower of things to do. Getting stuck in a rut is always something that's difficult to overcome; you just want to sink into your feeling of laziness. I decided I needed to change.

I actually went back to trying to do two hours of work per night and forcing myself to write. I counted how many essays I had left to write: eight, including repeats. I cursed myself for applying to schools which required so many essays, and tried to work on one essay each night. I knew that my supplementary essays would not be as polished as my Common App essay was, but all I could do was try.

It is important not to overwhelm yourself during the college process. You must pace yourself and understand that even though there is a lot of work, you can always get it done. Procrastination can actually help; if you leave it off long enough, you will get a fire in your belly to actually do the work. But it is important to understand that you will not be stuck in an abysmal pile of work and due dates. You will be okay, and you will get it all done.

Best of luck in this last stretch of finishing college applications!

'Humans of New York' book visually stunning, but loses emotional appeal

■ Andrea Michelson
Staff Writer

"Humans of New York," a photo blog phenomenon, has recently expanded its reaches to paper and ink. The book, released this October, includes 400 photographs of the people, the surroundings, and simply the essence of New York.

It started in 2010, when Brandon Stanton, a budding photographer and ex-bond trader, was inspired to create "a photographic census of New York," as phrased on his website, HumansOfNewYork.com. The goal was to create a map comprised of photographs of 10,000 New Yorkers. The result was a blog that has swept the nation.

The photographs in the book, along with the archive of photos and stories online, capture the variety of people in the Big Apple. Stanton's portraits are diverse in both their subjects and messages. Images in the collection depict a wide array of city inhabitants ranging from homeless panhandlers to smiling children in costumes.

When I first discovered the Humans of New York blog, I was sucked into a vortex of culture, color and self-expression. The photos are incredibly vivid and effortlessly portray the wonderful weirdness of New York City, making readers feel as if they are right on the streets with the Pigeon Whisperer or the Sausagehead.

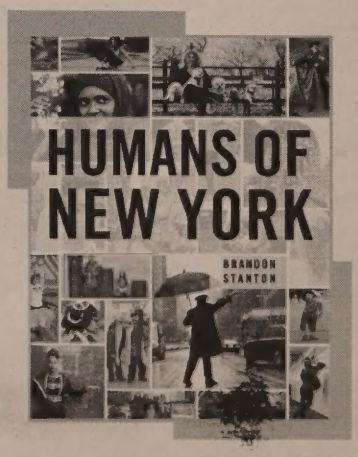
I was enamored with New York even before I knew of the blog or the book, so it is no wonder that I was able to appreciate this project. The "HONY" phenomenon will fascinate anyone with an eye for photography, as well as city-lovers.

I discovered that the anecdotes that Stanton collects on his quest for urban photos were equally compelling. On his website, interviews with New York's finest and most frivolous characters are featured alongside their portraits. Stanton asks questions such as "What is your biggest fear?" and "If you could give one piece of advice to a large group of people, what would it be?", and records the answers in the captions. The captions complement the pictures, and together they build countless stories of the streets of New York.

The photos in the book are beautifully chosen and portrayed, begging the viewer to closely examine each and every one. While perusing the pages, I was struck by the incredible details in certain photos and the creative overall layout of the book.

But while the photos continue to strike the reader speechless, the additional text and perspectives available on the blog are absent from the book. True, some pictures have witty captions or touching backstories filling the margins. Those were the photos that left me with the greatest sense of New York-ness. But photos that simply featured the location where the portrait was taken resonated less with me.

I still appreciate the book for what it is — a collection of photographs. The bright colors of graffiti and the shine of city lights are undeniably more vivid than any tale of the city that I have ever read. The supplementary words only add to the breathtaking beauty. A picture gains an extra dimension when there is a story behind the technicolor gloss. So while some may say a picture is worth 1,000 words, I would attribute about 900 to such a photograph — the text covers the rest.



First Jazz Nite showcases student work, previews future concerts

Michelle Chong
Jungwan Kim
Staff Writers

Courtesy of Chris Lee

Sam Schultz, a sophomore, performs Soul Station by Hank Mobley at Jazz Nite I.

On Nov. 1, parents, teachers and students filled Commons II in anticipation of the first Jazz Nite of the school year.

This was the first opportunity for the performing jazz ensembles to showcase the many skills they had acquired or polished since the beginning of the school year, including improvisation, composition and musical arrangement. Jazz Nite I also served as an important preview of the music and performances to come over the course of the school year.

The concert opened with performances by the Seminar in Jazz Improvisation classes, which showcased original compositions by the students. The selected pieces, written by students as their quarter one project, had been voted the strongest in each class, said Andrew Held, one of the jazz teachers.

The LHS Jazz Septet, a student-run jazz group, performed next, playing a compilation of music that members had selected from classic jazz literature.

The concert ended with Jazz Combo, which played an assortment of famous music from different international backgrounds that the members had transcribed and rearranged for the concert and upcoming jazz festivals. "The transcription project was something I assigned to the Combo over the summer to keep them thinking about jazz music," said Held.

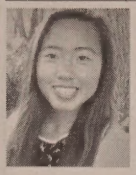
"Jazz Nite I was great," said Held. "The concert was one of the best yet." He said he was particularly pleased with the cheerful atmosphere and the student-led moderation of the concert.

One of the audience's favorite moments, said senior and audience member Justin Foelix, was when Septet members donned Red Sox baseball caps and performed a spontaneous rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," the unofficial anthem of American baseball. The surprise performance, inspired by the recent Red Sox World Series win, drew smiles and laughs from the audience.

[JAZZ NITE, page 7]

Pop Culture: Macklemore's hit song promotes thrift shopping

Becca Xu
Columnist



This weekend, I went on an epic adventure (cue Adventure Time theme song), complete with cornfields to traverse, fire-breathing dragons to battle and fair maidens to save. Just kidding. The only thing I had to traverse was the T, and the only thing I had to fight was an obnoxious subway gate that ate up my money and refused to open. I did, however, save a gently used olive green American Apparel vest from a life on a display mannequin. In other words, this weekend, I went thrifting.

Before that Macklemore song became popular (you know the one), I can guarantee that most people's opinion of "thrifting" was "eeeeewww," as in "Eww, why would I want to buy old clothes that other people have worn before?"

After Macklemore's hit, it's a whole different story: thrift shops have become a cultural phenomenon. Just one short stop away from Alewife, Davis Square has taken the "thrift" culture to heart, so Davis Square is where I went. Davis Square has three types of "thrift shops": upscale stores labeling themselves "consignment shops" and hawking designer wear, the labyrinthine Goodwill, and the in-between that is Buffalo Exchange. I went to Buffalo Exchange, and ventured into the Goodwill for a bit.

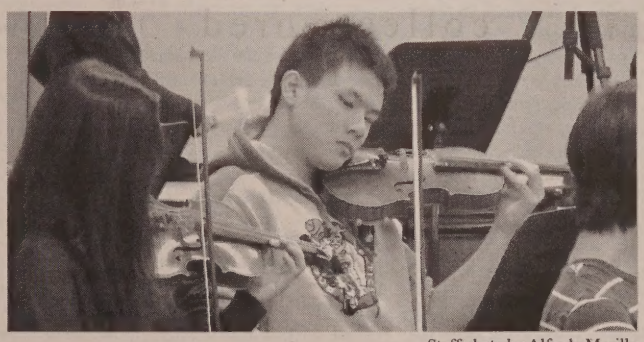
Buffalo Exchange was my favorite: it was well-lit, clean, painted with bright splashes of color and filled to the brim with hidden treasures. It also seemed to be the stomping ground of the twenty-something hipster types that steadily filed into the store within minutes of its opening. Buffalo Exchange almost seemed like Urban Outfitter's wilder, more unexpected, younger sister (I mean, Urban is the rich girl's thrift shop). At first it was weird knowing that another person had worn, loved and then donated the clothes in the store. However, the atmosphere quickly made me forget my worries. The way the store was set up closely resembled any other generic clothing store. Even the staff was friendly, helpful, and no more "alternative-looking" than your average Urban Outfitters or Forever XXI employees.

Now, thrift stores existed long before the rise of "Thrift Shop," but one thing that Macklemore did do with his song was change the mindset of people, creating a cul-

[POP CULTURE, page 7]

Community Changers: Ma utilizes personal musical interest for charity

Katie Chen
Matthew Weiss
Staff Writers



Staff photo by Alfredo Murillo

Philip Ma, a senior, rehearses with the GBAAYSO at St. Paul's Evangelical Church.

As a member of the Greater Boston Asian American Youth Symphony Orchestra, senior Philip Ma from Lexington High School participates in many of the organization's community service programs.

The GBAAYSO was founded in September of 2011, and most of its 53 members are from Lexington, Newton, Arlington, Belmont and Winchester. The orchestra conducts performances to raise money for various charitable organizations. These concerts allow students to improve as musicians as well as give back to the community.

"[Our] monthly community outreach performances [have] become a crucial part of our orchestra," wrote Jie Yang, music director of GBAAYSO, in an email.

Recently, the group performed at Rosie's Place in Boston, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women, and the Douglas House in Lexington, a residence for survivors of brain injury.

The concert at Rosie's Place was on Oct. 14 from 2-3 p.m. The performance at the Douglas House, on Nov. 3, also lasted from 203 p.m. Both performances were designed to help the residents de-stress by listening to classical music.

The GBAAYSO orchestra played ensemble pieces, while some orchestra members also performed solo. Ma played "Meditation from Thais" on the violin at both locations.

"[I was] happy to do these performances," said Ma. "[We] spread cultural diversity [and] they were touched [and] happy to hear our music."

The residents and staff at both Rosie's Place and the Douglas House interacted with the orchestra members and showed appreciation for their efforts.

"At the end [of the] performances, many of their staff and residents joined us for picture-taking and chatting with all our young performers," wrote Yang. "They are looking forward to our next visit."

Elementary students also played solo for the residents and got a chance to "develop their incipient talents further," said Ma. Yang agreed that these performances were excellent opportunities for young musicians to improve their technique and share music with the community.

"It offers [the orchestra members] many opportunities to overcome stage anxiety and increase their confidence and self-esteem," wrote Yang. "I strong[ly] believe that our community outreach performances provide an excellent ground for the overall development of our student body."

Additionally, the GBAAYSO's Music For Food Benefit concerts of 2011 and 2012 raised almost $2,500 for the Lexington Food Pantry. This year, he said, the orchestra was able to donate approximately $2,000 worth of cash and food to the Centre Street Food Pantry in Newton.

Ma said he felt that he grew mentally and technically as a result of his new experiences participating in these charitable concerts and performances.

"I got some experience playing for people who were not as fortunate as we are," said Ma. "[I] would like to go again."

Sudoku

7	9				5	2	4	1
6	5	8	1	2		7		
2	4				9		5	
	3		7	9		5		
	8			5		4	3	
		6	2					7
8		9			2	3	7	
	2		4	3	7	8	6	
		4		8	6		2	5

Holiday Trivia

At one point in history, Santa Claus was depicted as wearing a blue three-corned hat, a red waistcoat and yellow stockings.

Source: history.com

The custom of kissing under the mistletoe originally called for the removal of a berry each time. When all the berries were gone, the kissing would cease.

Source: smithsonianmag.com

The first song ever played in space was "Jingle Bells," using a harmonica and bells, on Dec. 16, 1965.

Source: smithsonianmag.com

CORRECTION:
In the "New Clubs at LHS" infographic, we did not label the blurbs with the writers' names. The Meditation Club blurb was written by Annie Ma and Alana Kepler. The Future Business Leaders of America blurb was written by Cathy Ouyang. The Baking Club blurb was written by Elizabeth Case. The China Care Club blurb was written by Christine Kim. The Badminton Club blurb was written by Richard Huang. We apologize for any confusion it may have caused.

HOBBS - PAGE 8

knows the game like the back of his hand ... He isn't a coach who sits back and just yells; he interacts with his players and wants us to not only play the game, but to understand what's important about it."

Hobbs said that as head of the boys' basketball program, he not only coaches his athletes in a sports context, but also strives to teach them several guiding principles.

"We want the athletes to represent themselves, their families, Lexington, the team and the boys' basketball program at Lexington High School in the right way, so we really talk about being accountable academically, socially and athletically," Hobbs said. "I make sure every member of the program is upholding — or working towards — those values."

James Laurenzi, a junior and captain of the boys' varsity basketball team this season, said, "Mr. Hobbs is a coach that every kid would love to play for. He is a coach that wants to not only have you become a good player, but a great person."

Although Hobbs has guided the Minutemen to the state tournament in two of his three years as coach, including a trip to the Division I North final in the 2011-2012 season, he said that his greatest success each year has come outside of the gym.

"Every year when I go to graduation, I watch my guys walk across the stage. To me, that's the greatest achievement," he said. "Watching the athletes graduate to me is more significant than a win or a loss, because if you worry about the right things, the wins will follow."

Hobbs also cited the annual Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser game that he runs with girls' varsity coach Steve Solly as one of his proudest accomplishments as a coach.

This season, Hobbs said the team is excited to showcase its skills on Jan. 25, 2014 in a game against Acton-Boxborough at the TD Garden in Boston.

"We are looking forward to making it a community event for all of LHS and Lexington," he said.

The varsity basketball season began with tryouts on Dec. 2. The first home game was on Tuesday, Dec. 17 against Wakefield — Hobbs' alma mater.

During each game, Hobbs' squad utters the same battle cry as they come out of the huddle — one of Hobbs's trademark sayings: "HIT one on three." HIT stands for "Play hard, play intelligent, and play together. The one? As one team.

Winter Word Search

I	O	R	O	X	P	F	C	U	E	D	R	U	V	G	N	Y	L	Q	S
S	D	N	Q	M	D	M	J	L	E	V	O	H	S	W	O	N	S	N	A
D	Z	R	W	F	K	S	Z	Z	E	X	Z	E	E	Z	Q	E	P	A	M
L	E	B	A	H	I	W	F	P	G	P	Y	P	T	L	B	L	S	G	T
T	S	C	E	O	I	R	J	W	P	N	S	L	A	X	G	Z	Z	G	S
L	X	U	E	T	B	T	E	E	S	V	U	C	L	H	N	W	K	O	I
E	H	G	A	M	A	W	E	W	F	K	D	B	O	V	I	I	S	B	R
M	K	I	O	L	B	N	O	O	O	F	I	L	C	B	H	N	N	O	H
B	I	G	A	L	C	E	R	N	U	O	E	I	O	E	S	T	O	T	C
L	I	A	H	B	Y	A	R	E	S	T	D	Z	H	Y	I	E	W	X	H
E	G	B	D	E	P	B	T	S	B	H	T	Z	C	L	F	R	B	B	C
Q	U	Y	B	M	S	T	Z	N	C	I	I	A	T	L	E	E	A	L	N
S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	A	O	H	R	O	I	C	F	L	B	I
B	Y	A	I	N	A	M	W	O	N	S	A	D	H	H	I	U	L	J	R
T	S	O	R	F	K	C	A	J	K	C	N	T	D	C	S	H	Y	L	G

blizzard
chilly
Christmas
coat
December
firewood
Grinch
hail
hibernate
hot chocolate
ice fishing
Jack Frost
melt
Santa Claus
ski
snowball
snowboard
snowflake
snowman
snow shovel
tobaggan
whiteout
winter

This puzzle made at www.puzzle-maker.com.

DEBATE - PAGE 1

Describing the atmosphere at the tournament, Krishnan said, "Everyone is always thinking ahead. It was a hectic environment." Debaters who were not actively debating were constantly researching and perfecting their arguments between debates.

Xie and Atia, who are partners for policy debate, reached the double octofinals of the St. Marks tournament before being eliminated. Both had debated on the affirmative and negative sides of the economic engagement policy in Latin America.

"I think that we did pretty well, but we always want to do better," Xie said about his and Atia's performance at the tournament.

When asked about her performance, Fraser said that it was exciting to get a bid and "know that we were qualified [for Tournament of Champions], but by far more exciting was placing second at a national tournament."

LHS debaters will be competing in the Tournament of Champions on April 26-28, 2014.

NAVIANCE - PAGE 1

"I like Naviance because it's realistic in that you see which schools are reaches versus matches versus safeties. However, it can be kind of depressing just because you are only seeing where you lie based on SAT scores and GPA," said Diana Cagliero, a senior.

While some students also appreciate the ease and convenience of Naviance, others, like senior Kavitha Pazhanisamy, a senior, feel differently about Naviance's role in selecting the right colleges.

"One thing I didn't like is that I feel like [Naviance doesn't] do justice in matching you up with colleges. I think they undermine you and ... make it seem worse than it is."

Some seniors, such as Katherine McCartin, find Naviance has barely impacted their decisions, and rarely use it, as they don't find it particularly helpful in finding the right colleges.

"I looked at some of the stats for my list of schools and found it interesting, but ultimately I went with my gut instinct for what I was looking for in a school and where I wanted to throw my hat in the ring," said McCartin.

Although there are differing opinions on the true benefits of using Naviance, many support its role in aiding and expediting the college application process.

Janice Compton, a chemistry teacher, said, "I think as soon as more [colleges] buy into it and they iron out the kinks ... I think it's gonna be a real time saver, in the long run."

EDITORIAL - PAGE 2

Most other states operate under the Hazelwood standard, which declares that educators have the right to preread the school's newspaper before publication and censor content they don't see as pedagogically proper.

As the editorial staff of The Musket, we are fortunate to live in Massachusetts, one of six states that follow the Tinker standard. This ensures that, as a student-run newspaper, we are free to publish content, as long as the publication does not cause a substantial disruption of the school environment or an invasion of the rights of others. This includes content criticizing the administration. For instance, in our Issue I editorial "Room 140 stripped of individuality," we openly expressed our negative opinion of a decision that the administration made, without being censored or halted before publication. Such journalistic freedom enables our paper to maintain a strong voice, unburdened by administrative censorship, in evaluating and critiquing events in our school and community.

This freedom of expression doesn't pertain only to student journalism; it permeates the atmosphere of our school as a whole. The LHS community is a hub of diversity. Groups such as Asian Club and Christian Club create safe spaces for students to celebrate their culture and religion. The Gender and Sexuality Alliance has a large presence at our school, and many students are involved in events such as Coming Out Day and the Day of Silence. This freedom allows people to take pride in who they are with the support of their peers and the school faculty.

It's easy to overlook the advantages we have as students at LHS, with all of the work and stress that is piled on us during these four years. But the freedom of expression we have at this school, both journalistic and personal, is something we should be truly thankful for.

HOMEROOMS - PAGE 2

forward to extended homerooms, it is not for the intended reasons.

Andrew Wang, a sophomore, said, "I really like extended homeroom ... not because of the activities, [but] because you're with your homeroom ... We already know [the] stuff they dedicate extended homeroom time for."

There are numerous solutions that Lexington High School can look to. In starting this process, it's important to realize that there are still beneficial aspects to extended homerooms, and it's vital for peer leaders, who initiate the extended homeroom activities, to receive feedback in order to improve them in the future.

"I think the [extended homerooms] that give us information about schedules and that sort of thing are helpful but some of the other ones aren't that useful. However, I liked the meditation extended homeroom because it helped me relax," said Preetham Chippada, a junior.

Different agendas for different grade levels would improve the experience, as the needs of seniors differ from those of freshmen. For example, in a new high school setting, freshmen may benefit from a refresher about the importance of respect, but for seniors, it becomes repetitive and unhelpful.

Additionally, more interesting topics would engage students and encourage students and teachers alike to take extended homerooms more seriously, which would make them more productive.

But it's evident that without fixing these inherent structural problems, extended homerooms will never be more than extra periods of time for students to socialize instead of a time to participate in meaningful activities and discussions.

THANK YOU

to our generous donors for supporting the Musket. We couldn't do it without you!

- **Jeanne Lin**
- **Bhavani Tirupati**
- **Lorraine Bennett**

Note: We apologize if you donated and your name is not on our list. Please send an email to musketnews@gmail.com

FALL PLAY - PAGE 4

Actress Katrina Chaput, a sophomore, said, "This year was different because it was Shakespeare. We had to come together and understand what we were reading in order to act better."

Their hours of practice ultimately led to a performance that extinguished most fears of being unable to understand classical language.

Their effort obviously paid off as they delivered a relatable portrayal of this classic play.

Singer said, "[My favorite part] is that the actors make it unique. They have a lot of freedom with how they want to interpret their characters."

When rehearsing the play, actors started with a readthrough of the script, making sure they all understood the plot. Then, a scene or two was practiced each day with actors paraphrasing their lines. Finally, the technical crew, costume designers and makeup artists came together for a runthrough of the whole play before the performance.

In the end, students involved in the play said they felt that the production was a great experience.

"It was really nice just to see it come all together. The costumes, makeup, actors, set ... how so many different types of people can come together and make something so beautiful," said sophomore costume designer Rohen Sundaram.

Audience members also had positive reactions.

Freshman Lucy Janovitz said, "I thought everyone was really good at acting and played the characters well. I was expecting a lot, and I got it."

JAZZ NITE - PAGE 5

When asked about the surprise, Alec Mukamal, a senior and member of the Septet, said, "To be honest, that was a really split-second decision — we decided to do it the week before, and the first time I ever saw the music was that night. We played it together for the first time about an hour before we went on. Since one of the main goals of Jazz Septet is to play songs that are really fun to play and listen to, 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game' falls under that category of just being a fun, appropriate [song]."

At this first performance of LHS jazz groups, Held reminded audience members to keep their eyes open at future performances for surprises.

POP CULTURE - PAGE 5

ture that was more open-minded to thrift shops. One of the employees at Buffalo Exchange said that many people didn't realize thrift shops were great, inexpensive ways to find unique items. According to her, a shopper might "scour eBay for months looking for a specific skirt, only to go to a thrift shop and not only find the skirt they wanted, but find it at a significantly lower price, too." She also said that after "Thrift Shop" became popular, the store became busier, gaining new patrons who were curious about the wonderland they heard about on top-40 radio stations. What is interesting is how just one song can elevate the status of such stores from quirky niche stores to pop culture phenomena.

In our own cultural bubble that is LHS, we mirror American pop culture, but with our own twist on it that makes it a distinctly Lexingtonian pop culture. (How many times have you heard the saying "only in Lexington..." used to refer to the culture of LHS?) The founders of every cultural movement at LHS — innovators and creators who made things "cool," who took some obscure thing and brought it to the public's attention — are all "Macklemores" in their own right. Maybe you could be the one to discover the next "thrift shop."

INDOOR - PAGE 8

es faced by their athletes, the indoor track coaching staff strives to create an enjoyable environment for team members.

"It can get tedious because there's a lot of repetition," said Bill Babcock, head coach of the boys' team. "But we try our best to not do drills ad nauseam ... and we also try to have some competitions as a group, [such as] hopping for distance and relay races, because it has to be fun in the first place, not [overly] serious where everyone is screaming and yelling at each other."

Ethan Isaacson, a senior athlete, concluded that the challenges of indoor track ultimately make the sport more rewarding.

"It's really nice to put in months of work running in the cold and at the track and then going out and beating people at the state and league level," said Isaacson. "The reward of training all season and running well and seeing the results ... it makes everything worth it."

Indoor track team faces conditions unfavorable for training, bonding

Ashvin Antony
Dan Kim
Staff Writers

Staff photo by Susie Kim

Caroline Carter, a junior, performs basic stretches with other indoor track members.

Members of Lexington High School's indoor track team face crowded practice spaces, New England weather, interminable meets and struggles to achieve team unity. Despite these challenges, around 150 LHS students join the team each winter.

As opposed to cross country and outdoor track, indoor track takes place in the wintertime, forcing practices to be held in the cramped field house.

"There's around 70 to 80 girls, and around the same number of boys," said Olivia Manickas-Hill, a junior. "We're lucky to have [the field house] ... but ... it's so many people and it's so tiny."

Due to this restricted space, some athletes, particularly the long-distance runners, train outside in the harsh winter weather.

"It's nicer during cross country, because you get to see the weather and enjoy your race ... [but] during [indoor] track, it's not the best weather to run in," said Muhammad Eltahir, a junior.

Another obstacle faced by the athletes is maintaining team unity despite being split up by events at practice, with sprinters, middle-distance runners, long-distance runners, hurdlers, jumpers, and throwers each performing separate training regimens. Stephanie Lukez, a junior and member of the cross-country and indoor track teams, said that indoor track is not as conducive to teammate interaction as cross-country.

Lukez said, "For cross country ... there's more access to getting to know people ... since we're all training for a 5K, but for indoor, you have to talk to the people who are doing the same distance ... there's not [as much] overlap there."

However, one thing all of the athletes share is the large amount of time they commit to the sport. Manickas-Hill said that most team members don't return home until 9 p.m. after meets, which usually take place at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury or at Harvard University's Gordon Indoor Track.

Given the various challeng-

[INDOOR, page 7]

Staff photo by Chao Zheng Li

Coach Hobbs encourages the Boys varsity basketball team to focus on ball-handling skills.

From the Sidelines: Hobbs coaches athletes out of 'passion for the game'

Mark Cui
Serena Hajjar
Staff Writers

Biology teacher Reginald Hobbs is the head coach — and the life coach — of the Lexington High School boys' varsity basketball team for the fourth season this winter.

Basketball has long been a part of Hobbs's life. He played basketball during all four of his years at Wakefield High School — one of Lexington's Middlesex League foes — and then attended Carleton College in Minnesota, where he played for another three years.

Hobbs said that he first became interested in coaching when he was in high school, because it gave him the opportunity to work with younger kids and watch them improve.

"As my passion for the game increased and I had the realization that at some point I would have to stop playing, being able to coach was a way to stay involved in the game and try to give back to the game that's given me a lot in my life," he said.

Hobbs went on to become the associate head coach at LaSalle College in Newton for three years. He also spent six years as the associate head coach at Tufts University and one year in the same position at Endicott College before coaching basketball at LHS.

Chris Grant, a junior and member of the varsity team last year, said that he believes Hobbs's extensive experience has served him well as a coach.

Grant said, "Coach Hobbs

[HOBBS, page 6]

Fall Sports Wrap-ups

By Alex Nehrbass and Justin Kim (staff writers)

Of Lexington High School's nine varsity sports teams that competed this fall, six took home the Middlesex League title. A team-by-team breakdown of the fall season follows.

Girls' Cross Country

The girls' cross country team pulled off a 5-1 season record, with the one loss coming from a non-league dual meet. They claimed first place at the Middlesex League championship meet. With a fourth place finish in the Eastern Massachusetts Division I Championships, the team qualified for the State Championships, where they placed ninth. At the Nike Cross Northeast Regional Championship, which took place over Thanksgiving break, LHS came in 28th.

Boys' Cross Country

Alongside the 6-0 regular season record, the boys' cross country team placed first at the league championship meet. The team qualified for the State Championships with a third-place finish in the Eastern Massachusetts Division I Championships. The season was capped off with a seventh place finish at all-states and a 25th place finish at the Nike Cross Northeast Regional Championship. Senior and captain Ethan Isaacson said in an email, "From the bottom up, this year was the most cohesive team I have been a part of in my four years."

Field Hockey

The girls' field hockey team achieved a record of 14-4-2 for the season's regular season games, and were crowned Middlesex League Champions. They advanced to the quarterfinals of the Division I North Sectional Championships with a 3-1 victory over Belmont before falling to Acton-Boxborough, the eventual sectional champions.

Football

The boys' football team closed out their 5-6 season with a 56-21 win over Burlington on Thanksgiving Day. One highlight was the team's 20-7 upset victory over Arlington, the 12th-ranked team in the state. "It's all a matter of putting the pieces together now, and next season we will be a very good team," said junior member Ryan Jones.

Golf

The golf team reached the sectional qualifier for the state tournament with a 9-2 record, but was unable to qualify for the state championship. Junior and captain Jack Lang said that after an early-season loss to Reading, "we banded together and won four matches in a row ... the resilience and camaraderie was really special."

Girls' Swimming

The girls' swim team finished the regular season with a spotless 8-0 record. In the last regular season meet, the girls took down the previously undefeated Belmont squad. In the Middlesex League meet, the girls placed second. Jayne Vogelzang, a junior and varsity swimmer, said, "Our team this year had incredible underclassmen talent, and the upperclassmen did an incredible job of supporting them."

Girls' Varsity Soccer

The girls' soccer team went 11-4-4, winning the Middlesex League title at Belmont. They fell to Lincoln-Sudbury in the first round of the Division 1 North sectional tournament. "The closer we got with each other, the more we improved on the field," said junior and captain Caroline Forlenza.

Boys' Varsity Soccer

The boys' soccer team compiled a 10-4-6 record and claimed the Middlesex League title with a win against Arlington. The Minutemen reached the quarterfinals of the Division I North sectional tournament before losing to St. John's Prep, the third-ranked team in the state. "We set goals that we wanted to meet, and inevitably accomplished them in the end through practice and focus on the field," said senior and captain Matt Edmonds.

Girls' Volleyball

The girls' volleyball team finished with a 16-4 record in the regular season, winning the Middlesex League title. They advanced to the quarterfinals of the Division I North sectional tournament, defeating Central Catholic 3-2 before losing to Andover, a 19-1 powerhouse.